

*To appear in the papers
now on many days for the year
1609.*

Articles to be inquired

of, by the Churchwardens and Sworne

men, within the Archdeaonarie of Worcester,

in the Visitation of the R. Worshipful, *M. Iohn Iohnson*

Doctor of Divinitie, Archdeacon of the Archdeacon-

ry of Worcester aforesaide, in this present yeare

of our Lorde God. 1609.



At London printed by Ralph Blower,
ANNO DOMINI. 1609.

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Article to be printed

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Matters enquirable, concerning the Clergie,

V Whether any do serue as Minister, or Curat, in your Church or Chappel, not being lawfully Ordered according to the Lawes of this Realm of Englande: And whether your Minister hath obteyned his Benefice, by any Simonicall Compact, either directly, or indirectly.

1. Whether your Parson or Vicar be not resident upon his Benefice (and being allowed to preach) and doth he not preach in his owne person, one Sermon every Sunday: And if hee bee not himselfe a Preacher allowed: Doth he not procure one Sermon every Month at the least, to be preached in your Church, and those also, by Preachers lawfully lycenced. And if your Parson or Vicar reside not continually with you, is the cure supplied by a sufficient Curat his lesse, and a lycenced Preacher: And how many Sermons haue you had in your Church or Chappell within these twelue moneths last past, and by whom preached:

2. Whether your Minister be negligent in the study of holy Scriptures, or moethes of his calling, or vseth he to play at any unlawfull games: Whether an Ale-house hunter, or a lover of discord, and not a peacemaker, or is hee Roted, fained or suspected, of any notorious Crime: Doth he not vse the Surplice in time of diuine prayers, and in administring of the holy Sacraments, and also, such comely attire, as well in the Church, as else where, agreeable to his Calling, as is prescribed in the Canons of the Conuocation lately set forth by Kinges Antecessors: Or hath he admitted any unlawfully begotten to Choles in his publicke Chancel, giuing in the Church after his Bellring:

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other wise, then in a white sheet, in forme of a penitent person: & hath bee received to h^y holy Communion, any excommunicat person, or Schismaticke, or any knowne to be notorious Offenders, without apparant signes of Repentance: & hath bee received, or put backe any from h^y Communion, without god & iust cause therein.

4. Whether doth not your minister carry Sunday, when there is no Sermon, read some part of an Homilie: Doth he not in h^y church before Evening prayer, teach, instruct & examine the youth of Con-
venient age, in h^y Catechisme, & principles of Religion. And whe-
ther bypon Wednesdaies & Fridayes, the Letanie, and other prayers be not read in the Church, as is intyned. And doth not your minister use the dayes of perambulation accustomed, and in such manner also, as is allowable, and no other wise.

5. Whether doth your minister serve two cures, or doth any serve as Curat in your parish, or preach, or any teach schollis publickly, or in any privat house not licensed under h^y Ordinaries Seale.

6. Whether hath your minister made any wast or spoyle of his benefice, or suffrath be his Chauncell, or houses, or any part thereof, & be unrepayred, or to fall into ruin or decay.

7. Whether hath your minister neglected the publique readinge the late Canons and Constitutions in the Church, as is required: & the Intimating of holidays and fasting daies appointed to be kept, by the setting downe in the Church Register, and publishing openly in the Church upon the Sabbath daies, the names of all such as were excommunicat, or excommunicat, and warned the whole world before. And hath he not one key of the Colles where the Register booke concerning the excommunicats kept.

8. Whether your minister, hath admitted any of another parish to receive the holy Communion in his parish Church, or hath admitted the holy Communion to any whoe hee was not lawfully bound to receive, without the Curiall, or Ordinaries licence.

excommunicate persons publique in the Church, till he receive a warrant to the Contrarie, as a Certificate of their Absolutions from the office to where they were excommunicate. hath he married any within the Degrees of Consanguinitie, or affinitie forbidden, or in time prohibited or without banes of Patrimony. thies solemnized in the Church thies generall sundates or holidates vnles it be by licence of the ordinarie vnder seale: or at any other time of the date: then betwixt the howers of eight and Twelue of the Clocke in the forenoone, or that your minister admitted any to be Godfathers or Godmothers to any Child in your parish before he or the such godfather or godmother hath bin partaker of the holie Communion.



¶ Matters enquirable concerning the laytie.

9 Whether haue you not in your Church or Chappell, The booke of common prayer lately set forth by the Kings Authoritie, the great English Bible, of the translations Authorized, two volumes, and all other bookes commanded, a table of the Ten Commandments, and a Table of the degrees forbidding mating, a convenient Table, a Comely Communion table on a frame, A recent Linnen Cloth to cover the said Table, with some other Covering or Carpet of Wilkesnesd like, A Communion Cuppe and Cover of Silver, A silver Banding pot of Pewter or purer metall for the Communion wine, A decent Purpless w skenes, A font of stone for Baptizing of Children A Chest for the almes Box and another for the Register booke with the locks and Keyes a pece, And in there a transcript yearly given vnto the ordinarie of all Christnings Weddings and burials as the Statutes require.

10 Whether is your Church and Channell in the rolo: walled, win-

windowes, seates and pavement, and in every other part thereof well and sufficientlie repaired. And the Churchyard well and sufficientlie with good railles and sufficient pales, or stone wall, fenced and kept sweet and cleane, if not, in whose default, and are your bells and bell ropes & all other appurtenances thereto belonging in good order or not.

11 Whether haue not your Churchw, from time to time, truelie leuied 11d for euerie Sunday, of those which absent themselves from their parish Church to the vse of the poore, or deteyne they any of the common Roke or haue they not made and deliuered vp a iust accompt to the parishioners of all their receipts and bursements, Whether is the poore-mans Box orderlie kept, and such Somics of Money as are giuen distributed to the poore accordingly, or haue your Churchwardens continued in that office aboue one yeare without a new election. And were your churchwardens elected in the Easter wake as by the late canons Authorized by his Maiestie, is required.

12 Whether is there any in your parish that doe refuse to come to their parish church or chappell to diuine prayers and Sermones, vpon the Lozds days commonly called Sundais or vpon al other festiual or holidais, appointed by his Maiesties authoritie, or any that doe not orderlie frequent the same, and doe not resort to their said church, or chappell vpon such daies to diuine prayers and sermones: and there behaue not themselves soberly and discretlie in hearing attentinely the Scriptures reade and in ioyning with the Minister and people, in prayers as becometh, or doe not reuerently remaine with their heads vncouered at such times and places aforesaid. And whether the said parishioners especiallie one of every house at least doe not frequent their said church or chappell to diuine prayers vpon wednesdaies and fridaies.

13 Whether any in your parish being of the Age of 16 yeares or aboue, haue not receiued the holy communion in your parish church or chappell, and that humbly kneeling, thre severall times in this last yeare at the least, of which Easter to be one, or any that haue not brought or sent their children seruants and youthe to the church vpon

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Sundates and holidaies in the afternone to be catechised according to the order laste appointed by the canons. And whether any doe not humbly kneele at the generall confessions and prayers and at their receiving the holy communion or any that be any talking walking or other unseemly behaviour in the church or churchyard in time of service service and sacrament. or doe any way disturbe common prayers preaching or other exercises of religion.

14 Whether any Dancers players of Enterludes or such like, or any other doe Daunce play or be any unseemly parts or games, or sell any biddalls or other paraphrases in the church or churchyard or doe be to sit in the street, tavernes, Alehouses or at home during service time and exercises of good worship. and is there any that suffer any such in their houses at service time, and who be they: or be there any feastes, drinkings, Churchales, temporall Courtes, lye Juries, musters. or other prophane blage in the Church or churchyard or any superstitious ringing of bells: upon holidaies or Eves abrogated by authority.

15 Whether any in your parish upon the Saboth daies or holidaies doe use their Trade, or doe any other trade or labour as brewing baking, washing, or such like, or doe open their shoppes for sale of wares upon those daies.

16 Whether is there any in your parish known or suspected to resort or to go to any Masse. or to any other such secret meetings any mainteyners of superstition, or false Opinions, contrarie to the booke of common prayer or Articles of religion or any that speak against the Established government of the church in this Realme.

17 Whether is there in your Parish, any Child or Children which have bin Baptized by any midwife, or other laye person, whose they be that have (as donne, and what and who be the parents of such child or children and whether any child hath not bin brought to the church to be Baptized, or hath any person take upon him or her to be godfather or godmother to any child before he or she hath received the holy communion.

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18. Whether haue you a Parson clark in your church or chappell, was he chosen by the spiritualles, is he industrious and diligent to the spiritualles, and learned, and sufficient to discharge his place. And soth he speedily Demerane himselfe and discharge his said office accordingly as he ought, and is there any that with-hold his accustomed duties from him.

19. Whether are there any in your parish who are known suspected or famed, to be of euill life, to be incestuous persons. Adulterers, fornicators, bawds, or bawlers of incontinent persons in their houses, or who haue conueyed them away before they haue made satisfaction to the congregation offended. Any drunkards, Ribbands, Rattlers, common Rannetters, makers of libels, scoulds, or sowers of discords, any swearers, Blasphemers of Gods name, or prophane of his Taboth, or any that haue fought, or stricken, or beate in the Church, or church-yards.

20. Whether is there any in your parish which hath, or hath had, at one time two wiues, or any woman two Husbannes. any married with in the Degree of Consanguinitie or affinity forbidden. Any diuorced keeping companie til together. Any married which without order of lawe liue a sinder and not together as man and wife, Any married which haue made precontracts to others, or any married without haue first solemnly asked in the Church the seueral fundates or holidaies in the seuerall places of their abode, otherwise then by licence of the ordinarie, or anie that marry south of the parish Church where they dwell, or that marry without Consent of their parents or guardians or at anie other time of the date then betwixt the howers of eight and twelue in the forenone.

21. Whether is there any in your parish that haue or doe take any Warre or interest aboue Ten in the hundred for a yeare for lending their money. Coinege: or by any indirect meanes and Colourable practices in bargaining, doe vse that Detestable Crime, to the pinch-
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ing and eating by of the Poore: by their Excessive gains.

22 Whether is there any in your Pari h that doe presume to enter-
meddle or Deale with the goods of any Deceased before the will (if
he made any) be Lawfully proved, or before Administration (if he died
intestate) be duly committed unto him under seale, or is there any
hinderers of the Performers of such will or Administration, Any
forgers or Changers of testaments, or any Executors that have not
fulfilled the Testators will, Especiallie in not paying Legacies given
to the Church, to the poore, to amend High waies or to such like good
and Godly uses.

23 Whether have your Churchwardens and Aldermen trulie Roted
and set downe in writing in a paper booke for that purpose, the names
of all Preachers which come to them from any other place, and hath
every such Preacher subscribed his name thereto with the day when
he preached, and the name of the Bishop of whom he had Licence to
preach according to the 52 Canon.

24 Generallie Whether doe you know any other Ecclesiasticall
matter, worthy of presenting, or no. And if you do, by the oaths you
have Taken you shall trulie present the same, aswell now as here-
after, when it shall come to your knowledge.

FINIS.